

RICHARD P. BERG  
HENRY KLEIN  
M/W/S S. GALLENSON  
M. IRIS HESS  
JOHN A. PALMER  
ROSS A. SCHMITT  
KEVIN P. STEINMAN  
GUANGYU TROY CAI  
"OK BAR ONLY"  
"NJ BAR ONLY"

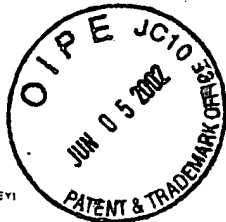
ALESSANDRO STEINFEL  
(EUROPEAN PATENT ATTORNEY)

OF COUNSEL

RICHARD M. JOHNSON  
LAWRENCE S. COHEN  
ROBIN DAY GLENN  
KAM C. LOUIE  
J. E. PHILLIPS  
"OK BAR ONLY"

224 SOUTH MICHIGAN AVE  
CHICAGO, IL 60604

RICHARD J. STREIT  
FREDERICK W. MEYERS  
DERMOT J. HORGAN  
JOHN E. MCKIE  
(MEMBERS IL BAR)



LAW OFFICES

**LADAS & PARRY**

5670 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD

SUITE 2100

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90036-5679

TELEPHONE: (323) 934-2300

FACSIMILE: (323) 934-0202

E-MAIL: LA\_Mail@ladasparry.com

INTERNET: http://www.ladas.com

May 16, 2002

*DEPERET*  
26 WEST 61st STREET  
NEW YORK, NY 10023

*Room 307*

*#7/Reg*

*for*

*Refund*

*07-25-01*

STEPHEN A. GOLDSMITH  
JAN JAY KAUFMAN  
FREDERICK REICHWALD  
JOSEPH H. HANDELMAN  
ALLAN S. PILSON  
PETER D. GALLOWAY  
ROBERT ALPERT  
JOHN RICHARDS  
DANIEL F. ZENDEL  
LANNING G. BRYER  
WILLIAM R. EVANS  
JANET I. CORD  
CLIFFORD J. MASS  
JOSEPH J. VILLAPOL  
BHARATI BAKSHANI  
DENNIS S. PRAHL  
CYNTHIA R. MILLER  
GEORGIA N. GOUNARIS  
(MEMBERS N.Y. BAR)

52-54 HIGH HOLBORN  
LONDON, WC1V 8RR, ENGLAND  
WIN C. BAILLIE

DAVID FARRINGTON  
U.K. Resident Partner  
(MEMBER N.Y. BAR)

DACHAUERSTRASSE 37  
80335 MUNICH, GERMANY

Customer Service Department  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Washington, D. C. 20231

Re: Our Monthly Deposit Account

Gentlemen:

We enclose herewith copies of our monthly deposit account statements for the months of January, February and March, 2002 and September and October 2001.

We are absolutely appalled at the number of \$180 charges which you have made against our account, apparently without proper authority.

These \$180 charges are apparently in connection with Information Disclosure Statements. If we send you an Information Disclosure Statement where we know there is a \$180 fee due, we do not debit our deposit account, but rather we send you a check in payment of the fee due. We tend to use our deposit account merely for emergency situations; for example, if we fail to send you a check or if the check becomes lost in your offices.

We have made a spot check of the cases for which the \$180 fee has been charged, and we have not found one in which a \$180 fee was due for filing the Information Disclosure Statement belatedly. Thus, it is our initial conclusion that these charges which were made to our deposit account were made erroneously and without our authorization.

As such, you are requested to immediately advise us for each \$180 fee charged to our account, why that fee was charged and, in particular, why the USPTO believes a fee was due. If the fee was not due, we expect these fees to be credited back immediately.

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
May 16, 2002  
Page 2

It is to be noted that there is no fee due in connection with an IDS if the IDS is filed before the first official action issues irrespective of the filing date of the application concerned.

Please advise when we can expect to have the unauthorized charges refunded to our account. Also, please explain yourselves, since we find your actions in making unauthorized charges to our deposit account to be, in a word, disgusting.

Very truly yours,

LADAS & PARRY

*Richard Berg*  
*mg*

Richard P. Berg

RPB:las  
Enclosures